



**For Immediate Release:**

**PIERRE FOODS TO EXPAND, CREATE 500 NEW JOBS**

**CLAREMONT** – Pierre Foods, Inc., a leading manufacturer and distributor of high-quality, fully cooked meats and great tasting frozen sandwiches, has selected its existing manufacturing facility in Claremont for a project that will maintain more than 700 and create 500 new jobs over the next three years with an investment of more than \$16.8 million. While salaries will vary from position to position, the more than 500 jobs to be created will have an average salary of \$26,461 a year, excluding the benefits package. A state grant from the One North Carolina Fund helped make the project possible and helped to retain the existing 717 employees.

Headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, Pierre Foods has enjoyed a dynamic history since its founding more than 60 years ago in 1946. The company's success is the direct result of its committed and skilled employees, key customer relationships, and providing the best products available. Since 1979, Pierre Foods' Claremont facility has used high quality USDA-inspected meats and hearth-baked breads to produce a wide variety of frozen sandwiches and other handheld products for the foodservice, school, military, warehouse club, vending and convenience store markets. The Claremont facility is one of Pierre's most efficient and productive facilities.

"Pierre Foods is thrilled at this opportunity to support both growth in our business and economic activity in the state of North Carolina," said Bill Toler, CEO of Pierre Foods. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with the State and thank all of our dedicated employees within the region for their contributions to our success."

"We're very grateful that Pierre Foods has selected their Catawba County facility for this expansion. These jobs, both retained and new, will have a real and tangible impact on many families in our county that have been struggling in recent times. We congratulate Pierre Foods on their success and thank them for their faith in the hard-working people of Catawba County," said Kitty Barnes, Chair of the Catawba County Commissioners.

"Pierre Foods has been an important member of the Claremont community for over 30 years," said Claremont Mayor David Morrow. "We are excited to see them grow and become one of the top employers in Catawba County. We wish them continued success and look forward to working with them to keep making Claremont such a great place to live and work."

“It is always very encouraging to see an existing industry such as Pierre Foods grow and provide additional jobs for the citizens of Catawba County,” Tony Rose, Chair of the Catawba County EDC Board, said regarding the announcement. “We are committed to helping our existing industries thrive and will continue to be fully supportive of their efforts to grow. We look forward to working with Pierre to make this expansion successful.”

For more information on Pierre Foods Inc., including job opportunities with the company, go to: [www.pierrefoods.com](http://www.pierrefoods.com).